

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- Suba
1. A computer-implemented method of retrieving information based on a user-defined profile, comprising the following steps:
 - a. a user-controlled client establishing communication with a server;
 - b. said server presenting a list of options to said client, said server in a stateless condition prior to establishing said communication;
 - c. a user identifying said user-defined profile via said client;
 - d. said server engaging a first application program, said first application program retrieving said user-defined profile;
 - e. said first application program examining a database of raw information and automatically retrieving a subset of said raw information from said database based upon said user-defined profile; and
 - f. said first application program transmitting said subset of said raw information from said database to said server and said server presenting said subset of said raw information to said client.
 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said client comprises an HTTP browser and said server comprises an HTTP server application program.

- 1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein said server comprises an HTTP server
2 application program which communicates with said first application program
3 via a Common Gateway Interface (CGI).
- 1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein said first application program stores a file
2 containing said user-defined profile in order to retain a state of said user-
3 profile.
- 4 5. The method of claim 2 wherein said step of said first application program
5 examining said database of raw information and automatically retrieving a
6 subset of said raw information from said database based upon said user-
7 defined profile is performed at periodic intervals.
- 1 6. An automatic method of retrieving information based on a user-defined
2 profile, comprising the following steps:
3 a. a client under control of a user establishing communication with a
4 stateless server, said server presenting a list of options to said client
5 via HTTP exchanges between said server and said client;
6 b. said client providing an identification of said user-defined profile;
7 c. said server engaging a first application program via a Common
8 Gateway Interface (CGI), said first application program retrieving
9 said user-defined profile wherein said user-defined profile identifies
10 information which is of interest to said user;

- 11 d. said first application program examining a database of information
12 and automatically retrieving a subset of said information from said
13 database based upon which information is of interest to said user as
14 identified in said user-defined profile; and
15 e. said server presenting said subset of said information from said
16 database as generated by said first application program to said client.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein said client comprises an HTTP browser
2 application program and said server comprises an HTTP server application
3 program operative on a remote computer system.

1 8. The method of claim 6 wherein said first application program stores a file
2 containing said user-defined profile in order to retain a state of said user-
3 profile.

1 9. The method of claim 6 wherein said step of said first application program
2 examining said database of information and automatically retrieving a subset
3 of said information from said database based upon said user-defined profile
4 is performed at periodic intervals.

1 10. The method of claim 6 wherein said step of said first application program
2 examining said database of information and automatically retrieving a subset

of said information from said database based upon said user-defined profile includes:

- a. said first application program retrieving source identifications and associated search terms from said user-defined profile;
- b. said first application scanning in said information for sources identified by said source identifications and identifying a first set of files in said sources containing the associated search terms;
- c. said first application program placing said first set of files into said subset of said information.

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11. The method of claim 10¹² wherein said source identifications and associated search terms from said user-defined profile are stored by topic.

Sub-A21 12. The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of said first application program causing said server to present options to said user to create or modify said profile, said options including:

- a. a first option to allow said user to specify source identifications in said information and associated search terms to search for in said source identifications to said user-defined profile; and
- b. a second option to specify delete and/or change said source identifications and/or said associated search terms in said profile.

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1 ¹⁵₁₃. The method of claim ¹⁴₁₂ wherein said source identifications and said
2 associated search terms are organized by topics.

1 ¹⁶₁₄. The method of claim ¹⁵₁₃ wherein said server presenting said subset of said
2 information from said database as generated by said first application program
3 comprises presenting said subset organized by said topics.

- Sub 3
15. A system for retrieving information based on a user-defined profile,
2 comprising:
- 3 a. a server having a circuit for presenting a list of options to a client via
4 HTTP exchanges between said server and said client responsive to
5 said client establishing communication with said server, said server
6 being stateless from session to session of said client;
 - 7 b. said server having an interface for engaging a first application
8 program responsive to said client providing an identification of said
9 user-defined profile by said client, wherein said first application
10 program retrieves said user-defined profile which identifies
11 information which is of interest to a user;
 - 12 c. said server having an execution control interface for causing said first
13 application program to examine a database of information and
14 automatically retrieve a subset of said information based upon which
15 information is of interest to said user as identified in said user-defined
16 profile; and

17 d. said server having a presentation circuit for presenting said subset of
18 said information from said database to said client responsive to said
19 automatic retrieving by said first application program.

1 16. The system of claim 15 wherein said client comprises an HTTP browser
2 operative on a first computer system and said server comprises an HTTP
3 server operative on a remote computer system.

1 17. The system of claim 15 wherein said first application program stores a file
2 containing said user-defined profile in order to retain a state of said user-
3 profile.

1 18. The system of claim 15 wherein said execution control interface is activated
2 at periodic intervals to cause said first application program to perform said
3 examining said database of information and automatically retrieving a subset
4 of said information from said database based upon said user-defined profile.

1 19. The system of claim 15 wherein said first application program examining
2 said database of information and automatically retrieving a subset of said
3 information from said database based upon said user-defined profile
4 includes:

5 a. said first application program retrieving source identifications and
6 associated search terms from said user-defined profile;

- 7 b. said first application scanning in said information for sources
8 identified by said source identifications and identifying a first set of
9 files in said sources containing said associated search terms;
10 c. said first application program placing said first set of files into said
11 subset of said information.

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20. The system of claim 19 wherein said source identifications and associated
-1 search terms from said user-defined profile are stored by topic.
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Sub 4
21. The system of claim 15 further comprising said server having an option
2 presentation circuit for presenting said options to said user to create or
3 modify said profile, said options including:
4 a. a first option to allow said user to specify source identifications in
5 said information and associated search terms to search for in said
6 source identifications to said user-defined profile; and
7 b. a second option to specify delete and/or change said source
8 identifications and/or said associated search terms in said profile.

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23. The system of claim 21 wherein said source identifications and said
1 associated search terms are organized by topics.
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Sub 5
23. The system of claim 22 wherein said presentation circuit for presenting said
1 subset of said information from said database as generated by said first
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3 application program comprises a topic presentation circuit for presenting said
4 subset organized by said topics.

1 24. A computer-implemented method of retrieving information comprising the
2 following steps:

- 3 a. a user-controlled client establishing communication with a server;
- 4 b. a user identifying a user-defined profile to said server via said client;
- 5 c. said server engaging a first application program, said first application
6 program retrieving said user-defined profile;
- 7 d. said first application program examining a database of raw
8 information and automatically retrieving a subset of said raw
9 information from said database based upon said user-defined profile;
10 and
- 11 e. said first application program transmitting said subset of said raw
12 information from said database to said server and said server
13 presenting said subset of said raw information to said client.

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